STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
44 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

May 22, 1986

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-48-86

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY COUNSELS

SUBJECT: COUNTY REQUESTS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF PAYMENT RATES FOR EMERGENCY SHELTER CARE

Over the past year the Foster Care Rates Bureau (FCRB) has received a number of requests from counties to establish rates for Emergency Shelter Care (ESC). ESC is a social service available in the child welfare service (CWS) programs (WIC Section 16501); therefore it does not fall within the responsibility or authority of the FCRB for rate setting.

It should be understood that ESC is predicated on the need for immediate removal of the child from his/her own home or foster care placement (see MPP 30-002(z)(3)) because of imminent danger of abuse, neglect or exploitation. While the need for ESC is most often associated with the Emergency Response program, it is a service funded activity also available in the Family Maintenance, Family Reunification, and Permanent Placement programs (WIC Section 16506.1; 16507.1 and 16508.1).

County Welfare Departments (CWDs) need to assure that when a social worker identifies a need for ESC within any of the above programs and provides that service, it is recognized as a CWS function and can be claimed as an allowable expense under the CWS allocation. Finally, all CWDs should be aware that setting the level or rate of payment for contracted ESC services is the prerogative of each individual county. The State Department of Social Services has no authority or responsibility for establishing ESC rates.

However, the criteria for establishing the placement rate changes if the period of initial placement is continued as the result of a detention/dispositional court order or voluntary placement agreement and the county seeks AFDC-FC reimbursement for the placement. At that point, the criteria for determining the placement rate become subject to AFDC-FC rate setting requirements, even though the actual location of placement remains unchanged.

If you have any questions regarding this notice please contact your Adult and Family Services Operations consultant at (916) 445-0623.

LOREN D. SUTER
Deputy Director
Adult and Family Services Division